AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein~~ A multifunction printer comprising:

a data acquiring device for acquiring original image data and being recognizable as an independent device by a computer to which said data acquiring device is connected; and

a printing device for printing print image data generated by image processing of said original image data and being recognizable as an independent device by a computer to which said printing device is connected,

wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing, and said data acquiring device and said printing device hold identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in said ~~a~~ common housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device held in ~~a~~ the common housing, hold a common serial number used as said identification information.

9. (Original) The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device transmit said identification information to a computer in response to a request therefrom.

10. (Original) The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

11. (Original) The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquiring by optically reading paper representing said original image.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer according to claim 12~~ A computer, to which a multifunction printers holding a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, is connected, and which is capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, the computer comprising:

a data acquiring device control section for controlling said data acquiring device and for acquiring original image data from said data acquiring device;

a print image data generating section for acquiring said original image data from said data acquiring device control section and for generating print image data which said printing device can print; and

a printing device control section for controlling said printing device, acquiring said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmitting said print image data to said printing device,

wherein said print image data generating section does not manage the number of said data acquiring device and other data acquiring devices, but said data acquiring device control section manages the number of said data acquiring device and other data acquiring devices connected thereto, and

wherein said printing device control section does not manage the number of said data printing device and other printing devices, but said print image data generating section manages the number of said data printing device and other printing devices connected thereto.

14. (Original) The computer according to claim 13 wherein said data acquiring device holds data acquiring device identification information enabling distinction of said data acquiring device from other such data acquiring devices, and when said print image data generating section needs said data acquiring device identification information, said print image data generating section requests said data acquiring identification information to said data acquiring device control section without specifying said data acquiring device, and

section requests said data acquiring identification information to said data acquiring device control section without specifying said data acquiring device, and

wherein said printing device holds printing device identification information enabling distinction of said printing device from other such printing devices, and when said print image data generating section needs said printing device identification information, said print image data generating section requests said printing device identification information to said printing machine control section while specifying said printing device.

15. (Currently Amendded) The computer according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said print image data generating section converts said original image data made up of RGB-based data into said print image data made up of YMC-based data.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said print image data generating section converts said original image data expressed by multi-value data indicating a plurality of tones for each pixel into said print image data expressed by multi-value data for each pixel, the number of values of said print image data is less than that of said original image data.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer holding a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing the image data, in a common housing, said multifunction printer holding identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in the ~~a~~ common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, comprising:

a data acquiring device identification information acquiring section that acquires, from said data acquiring device, data acquiring identification information enabling distinction of said data acquiring device from other such data acquiring devices;

a printing machine identification information acquiring section that acquires, from said printing machine, printing device identification information enabling distinction of said printing device from other such printing device; and

a comparing section that compares said data acquiring device identification information with said printing device identification information to judge whether said both devices are held in ~~a~~ the common housing or not.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim 19 further comprising:

a first notifying section that gives a notice to a user when said data acquiring device and said printing device are not held in ~~a~~ the common housing.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim 19 further comprising:

a second notifying section that gives a notice to a user when said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in ~~a~~ the common housing.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer according to claim 19 further comprising:

a selecting that enables a user to select said printing device for printing said image data even when said data acquiring device and said printing device are not held in ~~a~~ the common housing.

23. (Original) The computer according to claim 19 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquiring by reading said storage medium.

24. (Original) The computer according to claim 23 further comprising:

a storage medium loading information acquiring section that acquires, from said storage medium read-out device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not; and

a third notifying section that judges from said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and gives a notice to a user when said storage medium has not been set.

25. (Original) The computer according to claim 19 wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

26. (Original) A computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer holding a storage medium read/write device for reading image data from a storage medium and writing image data on said storage medium and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, comprising:

a storage medium read/write device control section that controls said storage medium read/write device and acquires original image data from said storage medium read/write device, said storage medium read/write device control section having a dual-use mode permitting reading of image data from said storage medium and writing of image data onto said storage medium and a read-only mode permitting only reading of image data from said storage medium;

a print image data generating section that acquires said original image data from said storage medium read/write device control section, and generates print image data that can be printed by said printing device by executing image processing of said image data; and

a printing device control section that controls said printing device, and acquires said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmits said print image data to said printing device.

27. (Original) The computer according to claim 26 further comprising:

a switching section that switches said dual-use mode and said read-only mode in said storage medium read/write device control section.

28. (Original) The computer according to claim 27 further comprising:

a storage medium loading information acquiring section that acquires, from said storage medium read/write device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not; and

a prohibiting section that judges from said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and prohibits a change between said dual-mode and said read-only mode in said switching section when said storage medium has been set.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The printing system according to claim 30~~ A printing system comprising:

a data acquiring device for acquiring original image data;

a computer that acquires said original image data from said data acquiring device

and generates print image data by image processing of said original image; and

a printing device that receives said print image data from said computer and prints said print image data,

wherein said computer is capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device as independent devices, said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing, and said data acquiring device and said printing device each hold identification information indicating that they are held in the ~~a~~ common housing.

31. (Original) The printing system according to claim 30 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device held in a common housing have a common serial number, and said serial number is used as said identification information.

32. (Currently Amended) A recording medium that can be read by a computer to which a multifunction printer having a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing image data held in a common housing is connected, said computer recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, a program stored in said recording medium comprising the steps of:

acquiring original image data from said data acquiring device;

executing image processing of said image data and thereby generating print image data that can be printed by said printing device; ~~and~~

transmitting said print image data to said printing device;

managing number of said data acquiring device and other data acquiring devices connected to the computer; and

managing number of said data printing device and other data printing devices connected to the computer.

33. (Original) A recording medium that can be read by a computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer having a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing image data both held in a common housing, said multifunction printer holding identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device as independent devices, a program stored in said recording medium comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from said data acquiring device, data acquiring device identification information enabling distinction of said data acquiring device from other such data acquiring devices;

acquiring, from said printing device, printing device identification information enabling distinction of said printing device from other such printing devices; and

comparing said data acquiring device identification information with said printing device identification information, and thereby judging whether both these devices are held in a common housing or not.

34. (New) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data.

35. (New) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said original image data is expressed by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel, and said print image data is expressed by multi-value data for each pixel, the number of values of said print image data is less than that of said original image data.

36. (New) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said data acquiring device holds data acquiring device identification information with which a computer distinguishes said data acquiring device from any other data acquiring device, and transmits said data acquiring device identification information to said computer in response to a request therefrom, and

wherein said printing device holds printing device identification information with which a computer distinguishes said printing device from any other printing device, and transmits said printing device identification information to said computer in response to a request therefrom.

37. (New) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

38. (New) The multifunction printer according to claim 7, wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquiring by optically reading paper representing said original image.

39. (New) A computer system, comprising:

a computer having a data acquiring device control section, a print image data generating section, and a printing device control section;

one or more data acquiring devices and one or more printing devices coupled to the computer, wherein one of the data acquiring devices and one of the printing devices are commonly housed together in a multifunction printer, the computer independently recognizing the data acquiring devices and the printing devices;

the data acquiring device control section controlling the data acquiring devices, and being adapted to acquire original image data therefrom;

the print image data generating section generating print image data corresponding to the acquired original image data; and

the printing device control section controlling the printing devices, and being adapted to transmit the print image data thereto;

wherein:

the data acquiring device control section, and not the print image data generating section, manages the number of the one or more data acquiring devices; and

the print image data generating section, and not the printing device control section, manages the number of the one or more printing devices.

40. (New) The computer system according to claim 39 wherein:

each data acquiring device holds respective data acquiring device identification information distinguishing the data acquiring device from any of the other data acquiring devices, and each printing device holds respective printing device identification information distinguishing the printing device from any of the other printing devices;

the print image data generating section sends to the data acquiring device control section a request, for the data acquiring device identification information, without specifying the data acquiring device; and

the print image data generating section sends to the printing machine control section a request, for the printing device identification information, specifying the printing device.

41. (New) The computer system according to claim 39, wherein the print image data generating section converts the acquired original image data made up of RGB-based data into the print image data made up of YMC-based data.

42. (New) The computer according to claim 39, wherein the print image data generating section converts the acquired original image data expressed by multi-value data indicating a plurality of tones for each pixel, into the print image data expressed by multi-value data for each

pixel, the number of values of the print image data is less than that of the acquired original image data.

43. (New) The computer according to claim 39, wherein one of the data acquiring devices is a storage medium read-out device adapted to set a storage medium for storing the original image data.

44. (New) The computer according to claim 39, wherein one of the data acquiring devices is an optical image read-out device adapted to optically read paper representing an original image.